

What is claimed is:

1. An airbag for protecting an occupant, comprising:

a left half airbag to be deployed on a left side of the occupant,

5 a right half airbag to be deployed on a right side of the occupant and connected to the left half airbag at midsections thereof in a direction that the left half airbag and the right half airbag deploy, and

width constraining means attached to the left half airbag
10 and right half airbag, respectively, for constraining lateral widths thereof when the left half airbag and the right half airbag are inflated.

2. An airbag according to claim 1, wherein said width
15 constraining means extends in a lateral width direction of the airbag.

3. An airbag according to claim 1, wherein said width
20 constraining means includes joining means for joining panels for constituting the left half airbag and the right half airbag, respectively.

4. An airbag according to claim 1, wherein said left half airbag
25 and right half airbag have distal ends facing the occupant, said distal ends being separated from each other so that a space is formed between the distal ends facing the occupant when the left half airbag and the right half airbag are inflated.

5. An airbag according to claim 1, further comprising a
30 connecting member for connecting the left half airbag and the

right half airbag at facing portions thereof, said connecting member extending in a connecting direction of the left half airbag and the right half airbag.

- 5 6. An airbag according to claim 5, wherein said width constraining means extends in a lateral width direction of the airbag, and said constraining means and said connecting member are aligned linearly when the airbag is inflated.
- 10 7. An airbag according to claim 1, further comprising vertical width constraining means for constraining vertical widths of the left half airbag and the right half airbag when the left half airbag and the right half airbag are deployed.
- 15 8. An airbag according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said left half airbag and said right half airbag includes an inclined upper portion so that the one of the left half airbag and the right half airbag does not contact an interior of a vehicle when the left half airbag and the right half airbag are inflated.
- 20 9. An airbag according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said left half airbag and said right half airbag includes a portion having a thickness gradually decreasing upwardly when the left half airbag and the right half airbag are inflated.
- 25 10. An airbag according to claim 1, wherein said left half airbag and said right half airbag have distal ends thereof separated by a distance of 150 - 350 mm when the left half airbag and the right half airbag are deployed.

11. An airbag according to claim 1, further comprising a base communicating with the left and right half airbags, said left and right half airbag separately projecting outwardly from the base.

5 12. An airbag apparatus comprising the airbag according to claim 1 and an inflator for inflating the airbag.